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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

21 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Photo-Analysis

I. Problem

To provide a photo-analysis capability within CIA to fulfill CIA photo-interpretation and analysis requirements and to develop improved techniques and keys for this effort.

II. Facts Bearing on the Problem

Current expanding CIA requirements for photo-analysis have been farmed out to the Photo-Intelligence Section (PIS), Reconnaissance Branch, AFOIN. Operational priorities within PIS limit this ad hoc cooperation and its staff is not trained to fulfill special aspects of CIA requirements. The other large photo-interpretation facility, Navy's PIC, also is burdened with operational priorities. The Reconnaissance Branch, AFOIN, intends to let a contract, totaling [REDACTED] 25X1A1a per annum, for research on regional and subject photo-interpretation keys for the USSR and its peripheral areas (see Tab A for description of projects included in the contract). It suggested that CIA would be a most suitable contractee because the Agency is staffed with many specialists on the area who are informed on current conditions (see Tab B, paragraph 5).

III. Discussion

CIA components recently have become cognizant of air-photo analysis as a unique, and often single, source of intelligence for both operational and research needs. Proper utilization of this source requires very close working relations between expert photo interpreters and substantive analysts (TS memorandum to DD/I from AD/RR, dated 16 April 1952, Subject: Report on the Status of Photo-Intelligence). Furthermore, CIA requirements frequently are highly sensitive and quite different from routine military photo-interpretation objectives. Acceptance of the Air Force contract, if offered, would permit rapid recruitment

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and specialized training of a competent staff, and would allow development of improved keys for current and future photo-analysis for intelligence purposes. To undertake this contract, it is estimated that a staff of 25 to 30 persons would be required. From these, a small select staff of 6 to 8 experts could be developed to form the permanent T/O for a CIA photo-analysis facility within the organizational structure of the Geographic Division, ORR (see Tab B, paragraphs 3 and 4). 25X1A9a
a consultant to ORR, is being called in to examine this plan, and an expert in this field will report for duty in ORR in the near future.

IV. Conclusions

It is believed that CIA should negotiate for obtaining the Air Force contract and initiate recruitment on a priority basis for competent personnel to undertake this work with a view toward establishment of a small, permanent photo-analysis component within the Geographic Division of ORR. The specialized personnel on this staff would work closely with analysts throughout the Agency in order to fulfill effectively all CIA requirements in this field.

V. Action Recommended

To authorize the AD/RR to take such steps as are necessary to negotiate for the Air Force contract and to recruit required personnel on a priority basis pointing toward the establishment of a permanent photo-analysis facility within his Office.

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CONCURRENCES:

25X1A9a

Deputy Director/Plans

Deputy Director/Administration

Enclosures: As stated

ORR:D/G:mk 25X1A9a

20 May 1952

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1 - Mr. Houston (General Counsel)

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Approved 5/21